



*First Impressions Are Everlasting*

## **Helpful Hints For Monthly Care and Maintenance of Your Adopt-a-Spot**

### **January**

- You should check your Adopt-a-Spot area for trash, debris or winter damage at least twice a month.

### **February**

- Check your Adopt-a-Spot area for trash at least twice a month in the winter.
- This is a good time to start cutting back ornamental grasses to 6"-8".
- If you have annual flowers in your Adopt-a-Spot, you can start planning and ordering.
- Chase away those "Winter Blues" by preparing for Spring sharpen, clean and oil your gardening tools.

### **March**

- Every other week you may want to check your Adopt-a-Spot area for trash that the melting snow may have uncovered.
- If the snow has melted from your site, you can begin uncovering and cutting back perennials and removing last year's dead leaves.
- This is also a good time to re-edge your beds where needed and to spread the winter mulch evenly around the landscape bed.
- If you choose to, this is also the best time to apply pre-emergent weed-killer to your landscape beds. You should consult your local garden center for pre-emergent weed-killer options and always follow labeled directions.
- You should begin to check your Adopt-a-Spot area for trash on a weekly basis.

### **April**

- If you are going to plant annual flowers in your Adopt-a-Spot, this is a good time to prepare your beds for annual flowers and summer bulbs by adding peat or manure and roto-tilling if the soil is dry enough to be workable.
- After roto-tilling, you can rake beds smooth and apply 2"-3" mulch.
- Late April is a good time to divide and replant perennials and add new mulch if needed.
- If the weather has been warm, you may want to begin checking your Adopt-a-Spot beds for early weeds. If weeds are beginning to invade your landscape, you may want to begin pulling them, or consult your local Garden Center for appropriate chemical weed killers as needed. Remember to always follow labeled directions.

## May

- **The first Inspection for 2010 will be during the week of May 24<sup>th</sup>, before Memorial Day weekend.**
- You should check your Adopt-a-Spot area for both weeds and trash on a weekly basis.
- You can plan to plant your annual flowers and non-hardy summer bulbs after the frost date... usually May 10<sup>th</sup> for our Hardiness Zone.
- If you plant annuals at your Adopt-a-Spot, you should water the new plants twice a week or as needed until they are established and well rooted.
- Once your annual or perennial flowers begin blooming, you should deadhead and remove spent blooms on a weekly basis, which will keep your area looking beautiful and encourage the plants to continue blooming!
- The month of May is a good time to begin a weekly routine to spot weed your Adopt-a-Spot area. If you want to use a chemical weed killer, ask your local Garden Center to recommend one, and always follow labeled directions.
- This is also the month to keep a watch out for damaging insects on or around plant beds. Your local Garden Center will be able to assist you with choosing products for getting rid of any unwanted pests.

## June

- Continue to check your Adopt-a-Spot area for both weeds and trash on a weekly basis.
- Plan to cut back dead leaves and blooms of early spring bulbs, annual flowers and perennials.
- As the summer heat approaches, continue watering annual beds twice weekly, or as needed.
- For bringing out the vibrant colors in the flowers and foliage, apply a foliage fertilizer monthly. Your local Garden Center can help you choose the best product for your site. Always follow labeled directions.
- Continue to pull or spot spray landscape beds for weeds as needed.
- Watch for insect damage on your plants. If bagworms are a problem, contact the Program Coordinator as soon as you spot them! There is a brief time in June that an insecticide spray is effective for bagworms. If they are not treated at that time, they must be pulled off by hand and destroyed.
- Keep a close watch on new tree and perennial plantings for adequate water.
- **The inspection for June will be during the week of June 28<sup>th</sup>, before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend.**

## July

- Continue to check your Adopt-a-Spot area for weeds and trash on a weekly basis.
- Check the plants in your Adopt-a-Spot for other types of insect and disease like: aphids, scale, mites, and mildew. If you spot anything unusual, contact the Program Coordinator immediately! The Nursery staff at your local Garden Center is available to assist in a diagnosis of most problems.
- Continue providing water for newly planted trees, shrubs, perennials, and annual flowers as needed due to heat or drought.
- Continue removing dead blooms and leaves from plants and pull or spray weeds in your Adopt-a-Spot beds as needed.
- **The inspection for July will be during the week of the 26<sup>th</sup>.**

## August

- You should continue to check your Adopt-a-Spot area for both weeds and trash on a weekly basis.
- You may need to continue providing water for newly planted trees, shrubs, perennials, and annual flowers as needed due to heat or drought.
- You should continue removing dead blooms and leaves from plants and pull or spray weeds in your Adopt-a-Spot beds as needed.
- You should continue to check the plants in your Adopt-a-Spot for other types of insect and disease like: aphids, bagworms, scale, mites, and mildew and treat as needed.
- **The August inspection will be during the week of the August 30<sup>th</sup>, before Labor Day weekend.**

## September

- Continue to check your Adopt-a-Spot area for both weeds and trash on a weekly basis.
- Continue removing dead blooms and leaves from plants and pull or spray weeds in your Adopt-a-Spot beds as needed.
- This is a good time to remove summer annual flowers and replace them with mums, ornamental cabbage or some other fall planting.
- Be on the lookout for early fallen leaves and begin raking as needed.
- **September's inspection will be during the week of the 27<sup>th</sup>.**

## October

- Every other week ,check your Adopt-a-Spot area for trash that the autumn breezes have blown in.
- Continue removing dead blooms, leaves, plants and weeds from your Adopt-a-Spot.
- To prepare for next year, this month is best for planting **fall bulbs** for spring flowers!
- After all bed clean up is finished, perennials are cut back, and bulbs are planted, you can start to mulch plants in for the cold winter months.
- **October's inspection will be during the week of the 25<sup>th</sup>.**

## November

- Check your Adopt-a-Spot area for trash at least twice a month in the winter.
- This is a good time to finish up any fall projects in your Adopt-a-Spot like planting fall bulbs, and applying mulch.
- **A FINAL Inspection for 2010 will be during the week of November 15<sup>th</sup>, before the week of Thanksgiving.**

## December

- Continue to check your Adopt-a-Spot area for trash at least twice a month in the winter.

